

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 165469
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /015 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: IO/UNP:SLAVOIE

APPROVED BY: IO/SA:TBROWN

-----092338 291919Z /43

R 291711Z JU 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

S E C R E T STATE 165469

FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN NEW YORK 02507 SENT ACTION SECSTATE
16 JUN 78

QUOTE S E C R E T USUN NEW YORK 02507

E:O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, UNGA, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH SATELLITE VERIFICATION PROPOSAL

REFS: (A). STATE 138541, (B). STATE 147644, (C). USUN
2411

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTEL A, PARA 5,
WE HAVE SPOKEN WITH FRENCH AT SENIOR LEVEL ON SEVERAL
OCCASIONS IN PAST TWO WEEKS AND HAVE MADE QUITE CLEAR
US OBJECTIONS TO FRENCH PROPOSAL. THE LATEST APPROACH
WAS JUNE 15 BY AMBASSADOR LEONARD WITH FRENCH PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE LEPRETTEE, ACCOMPANIED BY SENATOR TAITTINGER.
AFTER LEONARD HAD COVERED OUR GROUNDS FOR OUR OBJECTION
TO THEIR PROPOSAL AS IT STANDS, THEY INFORMED LEONARD
THAT THEY WERE INSTRUCTING THEIR EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON
TO RAISE THE PROBLEM DIRECTLY WITH THE DEPARTMENT.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 165469

2. THE SOVIETS HAVE, IN WORKING GROUPS AND IN CORRIDOR
CONVERSATIONS, MADE CLEAR THEIR OBJECTIONS TO THE FRENCH
PROPOSAL. WE HAVE NOT, HOWEVER, DISCUSSED TACTICS WITH
THEM.

3. WE HAVE UTILIZED THE UNCLASSIFIED TALKING POINTS

PROVIDED IN REF B FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE BRITISH, GERMANS AND CANADIANS. THEY RECOGNIZE AND APPRECIATE THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS WE FACE WITH THE FRENCH PROPOSAL. THE BRITISH AND THE GERMANS, HOWEVER, FEEL UNABLE TO COME OUT PUBLICLY AGAINST THE FRENCH PROPOSAL IN VIEW OF THE EC-9 STATEMENT MADE IN THE SSOD PLENARY INDICATING INTEREST IN THE PROPOSAL. THE ORIGINAL VIEW OF THE GERMANS AND UK DELEGATIONS WAS THAT ONE SOLUTION WOULD BE FOR THE PROPOSAL SIMPLY TO BE BLOCKED BY SOVIET OBJECTIONS. BUT EVEN IF THE SOVIETS TOOK THE ONUS OF BEING THE FIRST TO BRACKET THE FRENCH FORMULATION, CONSENSUS WOULD BE BROKEN UNLESS WE COULD GET THE FRENCH TO BACK OFF.

4. THE NEW FORMULATION PUT FORWARD BY THE FRENCH (REF C) CHANGES THE TACTICAL SITUATION. IN THE GERMAN AND UK VIEW, THE BEST SOLUTION NOW WOULD BE TO PERSUADE THE FRENCH TO FALL BACK TO THEIR INITIAL PROPOSAL FOR THE SYG TO SEEK THE VIEWS OF MEMBER STATES AND TO SUBMIT THESE VIEWS AND ANALYSES OF THEM TO THE 33RD UNGA. THEY HAVE INDICATED INFORMALLY TO US THAT THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO TRY TO PERSUADE THE FRENCH TO FALL BACK TO THIS POSITION.

5. IN LIGHT OF THIS TACTICAL SITUATION, THEREFORE, WE RECOMMEND THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED TO APPROACH FRENCH AT AN APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL HERE WITH THE FOLLOWING PROPOSAL.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 165469

WE CAN NOT ACCEPT ESTABLISHMENT OF A GOVERNMENT EXPERTS GROUP AS ENVISAGED IN THEIR LATEST PROPOSAL. WE STILL BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO TRY TO OBTAIN A CONSENSUS DOCUMENT. WE HAVE ALREADY MADE OUR VIEWS ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THEIR PROPOSAL VERY CLEAR IN OUR RECENT CONSULTATIONS IN PARIS AND NEW YORK. IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE THIS APPARENT IMPASSE, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THEIR INITIAL PROPOSAL FOR THE SYG TO COLLECT VIEWS OF MEMBER STATES WITH THE INSERTION OF THE WORD "FEASIBILITY" BEFORE THE WORDS "FUNCTION AND STRUCTURE." WE WOULD AT THE SAME TIME MAKE IT CLEAR TO THEM THAT ACCEPTANCE OF THIS WORDING IN THE PROGRAM OF ACTION DOES NOT IMPLY ANY CHANGE IN OUR VIEWS ON THE PROPOSAL ITSELF. WE WOULD ALSO POINT OUT THE US WOULD BE UNABLE TO PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE TO THE PROPOSED EXPERTS' STUDY, AND (IF WE HAD AN INDICATION OF SIMILAR VIEWS FROM THE SOVIETS) WE WOULD ADD THAT NEITHER WOULD THE ONLY OTHER STATE WITH A VERIFICATION SATELLITE.

6. AT THE SAME TIME WE WOULD ASK THE BRITISH AND GERMANS TO MAKE PARALLEL DEMARCHES. WE WOULD ALSO

CONSULT WITH THE SOVIETS TO DETERMINE THEIR DISPOSITION
AND, IF IT APPEARED FAVOURABLE, ASK THEM TO MAKE A
SIMILAR APPROACH.

7. WE WOULD ALSO CONVEY TO THE FRENCH THAT OUR COMMENTS
IN REPLY TO A REQUEST FROM THE SYG WOULD BEAR DIRECTLY
AND NEGATIVELY ON THE FEASIBILITY OF THEIR PROPOSAL.
THAT REPLY WOULD GIVE US AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET MAXIMUM
CIRCULATION FOR OUR REASONS FOR OPPOSING THE VERIFICATION
SATELLITE PROPOSAL.

8. IN ADDITION TO SERVING OUR INTERESTS IN THIS MANNER,
WE BELIEVE THE APPROACH TO THE FRENCH WE HAVE RECOMMENDED,
EVEN IF IT WERE UNACCEPTABLE TO THEM, WOULD AT LEAST
INDICATE THAT WE HAD GENUINELY SOUGHT A COMPROMISE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 165469

SOLUTION. THIS APPROACH FURTHERMORE OFFERS A FEASIBLE
ROAD AWAY FROM A PUBLIC CONFRONTATION BETWEEN TWO
ALLIES THAT INEVITABLY WOULD HOLD SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS
FOR OUR COOPERATION IN MANY UNRELATED AREAS OF MUTUAL
INTEREST. LEONARD

UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISARMAMENT, ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, SATELLITES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE165469
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO/UNP:SLAVOIE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780269-0720
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806111/aaaafjsh.tel
Line Count: 148
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 3cc0c97d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 138541, 78 STATE 147644, 78 USUN NEW YORK 978
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 aug 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2172810
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 970819
Subject: FRENCH SATELLITE VERIFICATION PROPOSAL
TAGS: PARM, FR, UNGA
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3cc0c97d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014